

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY MRS. FISCHER

2 HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 37

8 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 TO THE HONORABLE FRED A. SEATON, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR; THE
6 HONORABLE WAYNE N. ASPINALL, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE INTERIOR AND
7 INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; THE HONORABLE JAMES E. MURRAY, CHAIRMAN
8 OF THE SENATE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE; THE HONORABLE
9 E. L. BARTLETT AND THE HONORABLE ERNEST GRUENING, SENATORS FROM
10 ALASKA; AND THE HONORABLE RALPH J. RIVERS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM
11 ALASKA:

12 Your Memorialist, the Legislature of the State of Alaska in
13 First Legislature, Second Session assembled respectfully submits
14 that:

15 WHEREAS, the development of petroleum resources in the
16 State of Alaska are vitally important to the future economic
17 growth of this state; and

18 WHEREAS, the exploration of potential petroleum fields in
19 the State of Alaska will be of great benefit, not only to the
20 State of Alaska, but to the United States as a whole; and

21 WHEREAS, the present limitations of an aggregate of 300,000
22 acres to any one lessee makes it improvident from an economics
23 standpoint for a lessee, in some cases, to explore his lease-
24 holdings; and

25 WHEREAS, lessees interested in oil exploration will not,
26 ordinarily, invest money in that exploration, where the risk of
27 discovering petroleum resources on or near the perimeter of their
28 leaseholdings makes that exploration imprudent and only a larger
29 leasehold would reduce this risk; and

1 WHEREAS, considerable expense is associated with petroleum
2 exploration in Alaska since in virtually all cases access roads
3 must be constructed, some many miles in length, which must with-
4 stand continued use by extremely large and heavy equipment; and

5 WHEREAS, the cost of access roads is much greater per unit
6 of distance in Alaska than it is in the other petroleum fields of
7 the other states of the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, comparatively speaking, many more access roads are
9 necessary than in the petroleum fields of the other states of the
10 United States; and

11 WHEREAS, there are over one hundred lessees of petroleum
12 rights in the State of Alaska, yet the large majority are pro-
13 hibited by economic factors from exploration of their leasehold-
14 ings because the size of the individual leaseholding does not
15 warrant the expense of that exploration; and

16 WHEREAS, the size of Alaska, comparatively speaking, warrants
17 the leasing of larger tracts than in the other states of the
18 Unite States; and

19 WHEREAS, the cost of drilling an exploratory well in Alaska
20 is at least three times greater than a comparable test in the
21 other states of the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, markets both in Japan and in the Pacific Northwest
23 are waiting to purchase crude oil produced in Alaska; and

24 WHEREAS, the people of Alaska are in desperate need of a less
25 expensive source of fuel;

26 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialist urgently requests and recom-
27 mends that support be unstintingly given to any bill to amend the
28 Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 in which an increase in the acreage
29 limitations regarding petroleum leases in the State of Alaska

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will be made.